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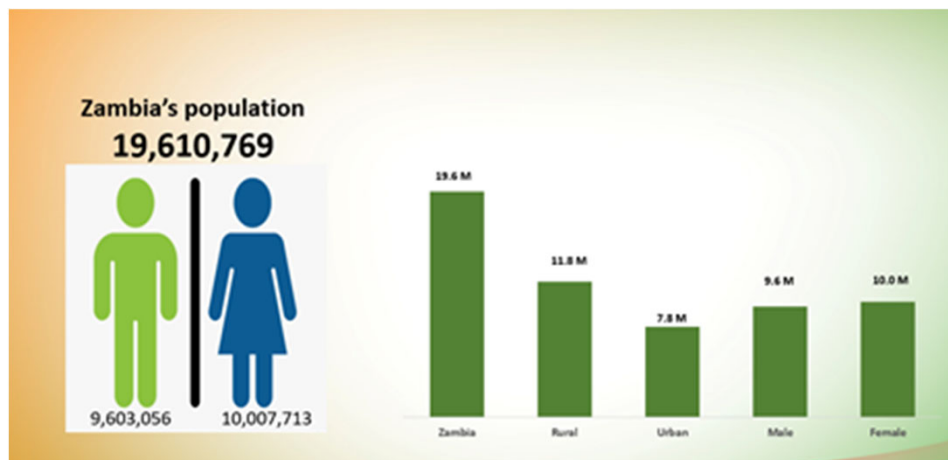
EU-Africa Strategy - State of Play  
Food Security on the Two Continents

**CSO perspectives**

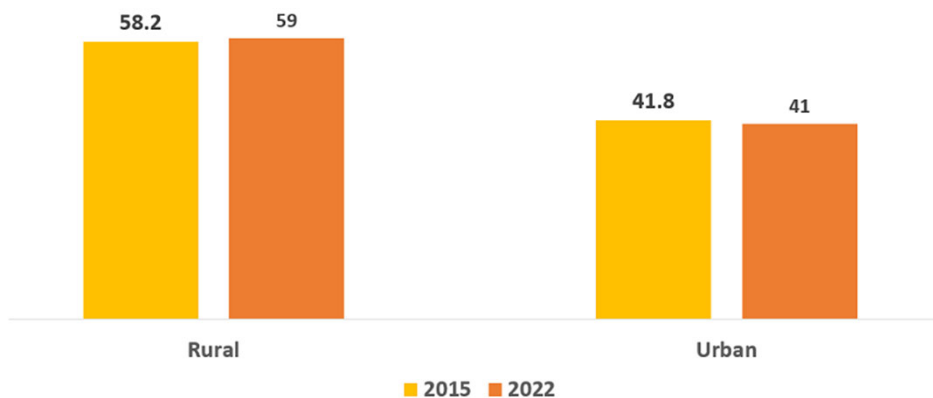
28 November 2023: DEVE Hearing



## Background and statistics



Zambia's Population: 2022 Census (Zamstats)



Zambia Rural Urban Population 2015-2022 (Zamstats)

- At least one in five Africans goes to bed hungry and an estimated 140 million people face acute food insecurity
- Africa as a continent is responsible for less than 4% of all GHG emissions
- In 2021, the average spending on agriculture in Africa was just 4.1 %
- Rural poverty in Zambia remained higher at 76.6 % compared to 23.4 % in urban areas as of 2015
- 35% children are stunted and 48% of the population fails to meet MCR

## Key contributing factors to food systems challenges

- **Globalization** of food systems; African countries depending on imports
- **Dominance of corporations** through control of food and seed system value chains
- **Neoliberal and gender blind policies** that support the exclusion of smallholder farmer markets, seeds systems, productions systems and that destruct agroecological systems
- **Intersectionality** of food and nutrition insecurity with climate crisis, debt crisis and structural inequalities



## EU-Africa Strategy

- It is commendable that the EU traditionally has prioritized food security and sustainable agriculture; but regrettable that this crucial sector was deprioritised in current MFF 2021-2027
- There is a need to make food systems more, **local, just, accessible, affordable, sustainable, equitable and resilient**
- To do this the EU must foster respect for smallholder farmers and indigenous peoples (UNDROP, UNDRIP, ITPGRFA) taking a human rights based approach to food security and nutrition security



# Recommendations going forward

## 1. Seed systems are important for diversity and climate adaptation and mitigation

- EU must support Farmer Managed Seed Systems (Att - ongoing reform of EU seeds legislation)
- Protect farmers' rights to control, own, exchange, sale and participate in decision making processes related to seeds
- Reduce power and control of corporates in PVP laws aligned with UPOV91, biosafety laws and harmonisation processes.
- Formal seeds are bred to operate in stable conditions and are not suitable to local environments
- Support farmer participatory research



**2. Investments** in agriculture must shift to support agroecology and farmer seed systems:

- Investments must support women and youth to have access to resources
- Investments must support participatory research

### **3. Debt and finance**

- EU must support debt cancellation for African states to allow more fiscal space to strengthen social protection
- Support partner countries in Africa to increase their agriculture budgetary allocation to 10% as declared in the Malabo Protocol
- Reprioritise funding for food security and sustainable agriculture (next MFF beyond 2027)



#### 4. Avoid false solutions

- EU must be cautious about supporting vague approaches such as nature based solutions and climate smart agriculture
- Mass land protection and monocrops of trees for climate adaptation and mitigation which only risk impeding food systems, eroding biodiversity and leading to mass land grabs from smallholder farmers



*THANK  
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